

HRC's 1<sup>st</sup> YOUNG HUNTER EVENT a huge success!!!!

After a lot of dreaming and planning, the first official HRC Youth Hunter Camp became a reality June 6, 7, 8, 2008 at the State 4-H Center, Lake Brownwood, TX. Twenty five campers and their parents came to partake in the training sessions as well as having loads of fun.



VERY SPECIAL thanks to Robert and Alice Steiner, Retriever Specialists, Inc, our national Youth Sponsor, for providing the kids tuitions for the event. The Steiner's were there to help with some of the training sessions, as well as providing equipment to use. They donated heeling sticks to each child before they headed back to Florida.

Friday evening was spent getting acquainted, housing campers and dogs, and playing games. The 4-H Center had the perfect grounds for dog training. Participants had access to wide open shaded lawn areas and a covered patio where the sessions were taught, as well as keeping the dogs crated in a cool environment when not being trained. The cafeteria, recreation room and dorms were adjacent to the patio. There was also an amphitheater which served perfectly for the duck calling session.

Training sessions offered on Saturday were: correct use of equipment, basic obedience, marking, handling, gun safety, duck calling, habitat conservation, dog first aid, and dog games. The young folks were also given plenty of free time to swim, play basketball, horseshoes, air hockey, pool, etc.

Some kids did not have dogs to handle - maybe because of a puppy being too young, or not having a dog at all. Glenda Mitchell, Rody Best, and Orië Mathews, three pro trainers that taught the sessions provided Finished level dogs for those kids that did not bring dogs.

On Sunday, a mock hunt test was held. Each participant ran the test with the help (if needed) of a pro trainer standing behind the line. It was evident that every child learned from each session by the success they had at the test. As incentive, money was attached to the orange bumpers at the blind and many dogs picked up an added bonus for their handlers!

After lunch and a drawing for great prizes donated by generous sponsors, many kids asked to sign up for next year's camp. Thanks to Tritronics, Purina, Avery, HuntEmUp.com, Dennis Crain, The United Kennel Club, HRC Youth Foundation, Orië Mathews, Jay Patton, James Byrd, Dianna Peacock, Rick Wojciechowski, Rody Best, Tracy Wight, Jimmy Fischer, Gary Sapp, Mark Kawalek, and Mike Witt for helping make the camp a tremendous success.